

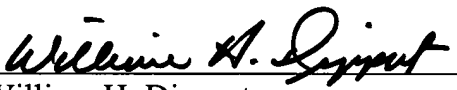
REMARKS

In the amendments above, Claims 1 to 8 have been cancelled in favor of newly added Claims 9 to 17.

Claims 1 to 8 were rejected for "double patenting" in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,631. Applicants believe that cancellation of Claims 1 to 8 above renders discussion of this rejection moot.

Consideration and allowance of Claims 9 to 17 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
William H. Dippert  
Registration No. 26,723

REED SMITH LLP  
599 Lexington Avenue  
29<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10022-7650  
Tel: 212/521-5400  
Fax: 212/521-5450